533 Bec'd PCT/PTO 0 7 SEP 2001 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEM ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER FORM PTO-1390 TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES 3286-0171P U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) 0 **DEW** 360 CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. March 9, 1999 PCT/DE00/00737 March 9, 2000 TITLE OF INVENTION AUTOMATION SYSTEM WITH AUTOMATION OBJECTS WITH A DIRECTORY STRUCTURE AND METHOD FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF AUTOMATIONS OBJECTS IN A DIRECTORY STRUCTURE APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US -BECKER, Norbert; DIEZEL, Matthias; ECKARDT, Dieter; KRAEMER, Manfred; LEINS, Ralf; MOELLER-NEHRING, Walter; SCHNEIDER, Karsten; WINDL, Helmut, Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information: This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39 (1). The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31). A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) a. X is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). WO 00/54147 b. has been transmitted by the International Bureau. is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). a. is transmitted herewith. has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4) 7. Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). have been transmitted by the International Bureau. have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. have not been made and will not be made. An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 10. (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). Items 11. to 20. below concern document(s) or information included: 11. An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98-1449 and International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210) w/ 3 documents An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. A FIRST preliminary amendment. A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 14. A substitute specification. 15. 🔀 A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821-1.825. A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 18. A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 19. 20. Other items or information: 1.) PCT Substitute Claims Letter w/ amendments 2.) Two (2) sheets of Formal Drawings *BIEHLER, Georg; DONNER, Albrecht; HERBERTH, Harald, LANGKAFEL, Dirk; LANGE, Ronald; SCHMOLL, Juergen; WELZ,

Ulrich

JC12 Rec'd PCT/PTO 0 7 SEP 2001 INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO U.S. APPLICATION NO (if known, see 37 CFR 1 5) 3286-0171P PCT/DE00/00737 **CALCULATIONS** PTO USE ONLY 21. The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO..... \$1,000.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO..... \$710.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$690.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)..... \$100.00 860.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 20 **X** 30 130.00 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)). CLAIMS NUMBER FILED **NUMBER EXTRA RATE** 8 - 20 = 0 X \$18.00 Total Claims 0 0 X \$80.00 Independent Claims \$ 0 MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable) None + \$270.00\$ 0 990.00 TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are 0 reduced by 1/2. SUBTOTAL =990.00 \square 20 Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than \$ months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). 990.00 TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be \$ accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = \$ 990.00 Amount to be: refunded charged a. A check in the amount of \$ 990.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed. in the amount of \$ to cover the above fees. b. Please charge my Deposit Account. No. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448. NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status. Send all correspondence to: Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP or Customer No. 2292 P.O. Box 747 Falls Church, VA 22040-0747 (703)205-8000 Date: September 7, 2001

PATENT 3286-0171P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

BECKER, Norbert et al.

Application No.:

NEW

Filed:

September 7, 2001

For:

AUTOMATION SYSTEM WITH AUTOMATION OBJECTS WITH A DIRECTORY STRUCTURE AND METHOD FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF AUTOMATION OBJECTS IN A DIRECTORY

STRUCTURE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

September 7, 2001

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the Abstract with the attached revised Abstract.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the original specification with the Substitute Specification attached hereto.

New U.S. Application

Docket No.: 3286-0171P

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the original claims with the following new claims:

1. (Amended) An automation system comprising:

at least one automation object;

a directory for storing object names of the at least one automation object;

an object name assigned to a directory entry which includes first information data

as a reference to the at least one automation object, second information date as a description of

technological functionality and third information data as a description of interfaces of the at least

one automation object, wherein once entry into the directory has taken place, the at least one

automation object can be viewed by at least one of other users and tools and wherein the object

name of the at least one automation object can be used to request a reference to the at least one

automation object and wherein the at least one automation object can be worked on by a number

of users in parallel.

2. (Amended) The automation system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the directory

entry includes fourth information data for listing the names of subcomponents of the at least one

automation object.

3. (Amended) The automation system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

automation system includes means for the automatic entry of an automation object into the

directory.

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4. (Amended) The automation system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

automation system includes means for indicating that an automation object is no longer available

and that a copy of the object is being created.

Please add the following new claims:

-- 5. The automation system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the automation system

includes means for the automatic entry of an automation object into the directory.

6. The automation system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the automation system

includes means for indicating that an automation object is no longer available and that a copy of

the object is being created.

7. The automation system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the automation system

includes means for indicating that an automation object is no longer available and that a copy of

the object is being created.

8. The automation system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the automation system

includes means for indicating that an automation object is no longer available and that a copy of

the object is being created. --

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are now present in this application, with new claims 5-8 being added by the

present Preliminary Amendment. It should be noted that the amendments to original claims 1-4

of the present application are non-narrowing amendments, made solely to place the claims in

proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory

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New U.S. Application

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considerations. For example, amendments have been made to broaden the claims; to remove

reference numerals in the claims; remove the European phrase "characterized in that"; remove

multiple dependencies in the claims; and to place claims in a more recognizable U.S. form,

including the use of the transitional phrase "comprising" as well as the phrase "wherein". Other

such non-narrowing amendments include adding the phrase --at least one of-- for consistency,

and placing apparatus claims (elements set forth in separate paragraphs) in a more recognizable

U.S. form. Again, all amendments are non-narrowing and have been made solely to place the

claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other

statutory considerations.

SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.125, a substitute specification has been included in lieu

of substitute paragraphs in connection with the present Preliminary Amendment. The substitute

specification is submitted in clean form, attached hereto, and is accompanied by a marked-up

version showing the changes made to the original specification. The changes have been made in

an effort to place the specification in better form for U.S. practice. No new matter has been

added by these changes to the specification. Further, the substitute specification includes

paragraph numbers to facilitate amendment practice as requested by the U.S. Patent and

Trademark Office.

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Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, an early indication of the

CONCLUSION

allowability of each of claims 1-8 in connection with the present application is earnestly

solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present

application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone

number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future

replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any

additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension

of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

DJD:kna

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ABSTRACT

An automation system includes at least one automation object, with a directory for storing object names of the at least one automation object. An object name is assigned a directory entry which includes first information data as a reference to the automation object; second information data as a description of technological functionality; and third information data as a description of interfaces of the automation object. This results in immediate and permanent access to currently created (partial) solutions, so that parallel and/or distributed working on automation objects is possible.

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MO 1737 MARKED -UT VERSION OF SPECIFICATION

Description

Automation system with automation objects with a directory structure and method for the management of automation objects in a directory structure

FISCO OF THE INVENTED THE invention relates to an automation system which has at least one automation object.

An automation system of this type is used in particular in the area of automation technology. An automation system of this type generally comprises a multiplicity of individual automation objects, which are frequently highly dependent on the automation object of the engineering system respectively used. This has the consequence that automation objects of one manufacturer often require their own engineering system and cannot be used in other systems with automation objects of other manufacturers.

Robert Orfali et al: "The Essential Distributed Objects Survival Guide", 1996, John Wiley & Sons Inc., New XP002152444, discloses the standardized USA, middleware CORBA, which allows location-, platform- and implementation-independent communication applications. The CORBA Version 2.0 makes it possible be exchanged between Object for messages of various manufacturers and in (ORB) Brokers particular also over the Internet. An ORB makes it possible for a client to send a message transparently to a server object, the server object being able to run on the same machine or another machine. The ORB is responsible for finding the server object, calling up the function there, transferring the parameters and returning the result to the client.

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SUMMARY OF THE , NV. 15, ON The invention is based on the object of specifying an automation system which makes it possible automation solutions to be created on a parallel and/or distributed basis.

This and/or other objects are This object is achieved by an automation system with the features specified in claim 1.

The invention is based on the realization that in previous solutions, the data of the automation solution are generally stored in a central data store such as a database

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system. The data storage system then controls the access of various users to the data. In this case, it as ensured that each user only sees consistent data and is isolated from changes made by other users. This generally takes place by a user being granted exclusive access to his required data. In this time, these data are not available to other users for working on them. Therefore, this solution has the following disadvantages:

- No parallel working: users can only work on the same data records one after the other.
 - Slow exchange of partial results: results only become usable for other users when the data have been released again by the last person working on them.
 No joint working: a number of users cannot work on
- No joint working: a number of users cannot work on the same objects together and exchange interim results.

solution according to the invention permits The immediate and permanent access to currently created 20 partial solutions by the special way in which the directory is structured as a directory service. directory service provides all developers with access solutions current partial and the This results in the following advantages: 25

- Parallel working: users can work on the same data records, required for different tasks (for example interconnection and parameterization), on a parallel basis.
- Immediate availability of partial results: results become usable for other users more quickly, not only when the data are released again by the last person working on them.
 - Joint working: a number of users can work on the same objects together and exchange interim results.
 - Distributed working: users can work on a (spatially) distributed basis; by means of the directory, they can, if need be, always re-synchronize the stages

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they have reached in working.

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BRISE DESCRIPTION OF THE DROWNES 3 -

The invention is described in more detail and explained below on the basis of the exemplary embodiments represented in the figures, in which:

- figure 1 shows a basic representation of how a directory is structured and its entries and
 - figure 2 shows a schematic representation of the use of the directory entries.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFURED EMBLOIMENTS

shows a basic representation of Figure 1 10 directory is structured and its entries. The automation system has a directory V, in which object names O1..On of automation objects can be stored. Each object name 01..0n is assigned a directory entry, which contains first information data Oll for an object reference, 15 second information data 012 as a list of the modules contained in the automation object, third information data (013) for the identification of interface data and (014)with names information fourth data subcomponents. 20

With the aid of the directory structure shown in figure 1, references to created (partial) solutions and/or automation objects are stored with descriptive data. As in a telephone book, the name of the object can be used to find its reference (i.e. its telephone number).

Along with a reference to the actual object, the entry comprises, a description of its technological functionality through the list of names of the modules contained, a listing of the names of any subcomponents and a description of its interface, which makes it possible for other objects/tools to use the objects referenced in this way.

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Figure 2 a schematic representation of the use of the directory entries. After the creation of an object, it is entered at certain points in time in the directory as entry OE1 for a first automation object. It can then be viewed by other users/tools. They can then use the name to request a reference to the object and work on or copy the latter directly.

Entering or changing or removing an object entry in the directory does not have to take place instantaneously. Here, too, the analogy with a telephone book again applies: even if individual entries become invalid, as a whole it can still be used. This property is important in particular in the case of distributed working, since the communication expenditure is minimized in this way. If an object is still in the directory, but no longer available, this is indicated when it is attempted to request a copy.

To sum up, the invention consequently relates to an 20 automation system which has at least one automation object 1, with a directory V for storing object names O1..On of the automation objects, an object name O1..On being assigned a directory entry Oel..Oen which has first information data Oll as a reference to the 25 automation object, second information data 012 as a description of the technological functionality and as a description of 013 data information interfaces of the automation object. This results in immediate and permanent access to currently created 30 and/or parallel that (partial) solutions, so distributed working on automation objects is possible.

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MARKED-UP CLAIMS

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Patent claims

automation system which has lat least automation object, with a directory ((V) for storing object names ((01..0n)) of the automation (objects) an object name (01..0n) being assigned a directory entry [(OE1..Oen)] which [has] first information data (011) as a reference to the automation object, second information data (012) as a description of technological functionality (013) as information data description the Tautomation object, [it interfaces of possible, fonce entry into the directory (V) has taken place, [for] the automation object to be viewed by other users and/or tools and it being possible to use the object name ((01..0n)) of the automation object to request a reference to the automation object and the automation object to be worked on by a number of users in parallel.

2. The automation system as claimed in claim 1, Characterized in that the directory entry (OE1) has included fourth information data (O14) for listing the names of subcomponents of the automation object.

3. The automation system as claimed in either of claims in and 2, characterized in that the automatic entry of an automation object into the directory (V).

4. The automation system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the automation system (has means which indicated that an automation object is no longer available and that a copy of the object is being created.

Printed: 04-30-2001 AMENDED SHEET

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6. sine as 4, but dep on 2
7. Some as 4, but dep on 3
9. some as 4, but dep on 3
9. some as 4, but dep on 5

MARKED-UP ABSTRACT

Abstract

Automation system with automation objects with a directory structure and method for the management of automation objects in a directory structure

The invention relates to an automation system which has at least one automation object (1), with a directory (W) for storing object names (O1..On) of the automation object an object name (O1..On) being assigned a directory entry (OE1..Oen) which has first information data (O11) as a reference to the automation object, second information data (O12) as a description of the technological functionality and third information data (O13) as a description of interfaces of the automation object. This results in immediate and permanent access to currently created (partial) solutions, so that parallel and/or distributed working on automation objects is possible.

Figure 1

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SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

AUTOMATION SYSTEM WITH AUTOMATION OBJECTS WITH A DIRECTORY STRUCTURE AND METHOD FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF AUTOMATION OBJECTS IN A DIRECTORY STRUCTURE

[0001] This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/DE00/00737 which has an International filing date of March 9, 2000, which designated the United States of America, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Field of the Invention

[0002] The invention relates to an automation system which has at least one automation object.

Background of the Invention

[0003] An automation system of this type is used in particular in the area of automation technology. An automation system of this type generally includes a multiplicity of individual automation objects, which are frequently highly dependent on the automation object of the engineering system respectively used. This has the consequence that automation objects of one manufacturer often require their own engineering system and cannot be used in other systems with automation objects of other manufacturers.

[0004] Robert Orfali et al: "The Essential Distributed Objects Survival Guide", 1996, John Wiley & Sons Inc., New York, USA, XP002152444, discloses the standardized middleware CORBA, which allows location-, platform- and implementation-independent communication between applications. The CORBA Version 2.0 makes it possible for messages be exchanged between Object Request Brokers (ORB) of various manufacturers and in particular also over the Internet. An ORB makes it possible for a client to send a message transparently to a server object, the server object being able to run on the same machine or another machine. The ORB is responsible for finding the server object, calling up the function there, transferring the parameters and returning the result to the client.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] The invention is based on the object of specifying an automation system which makes it possible for automation solutions to be created on a parallel and/or distributed basis.

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[0006] This and/or other objects are achieved by an automation system with the features specified in claim 1.

[0007] The invention is based on the realization that in previous solutions, the data of the automation solution were generally stored in a central data store such as a database system. The data storage system then controlled the access of various users to the data. In this case, it was ensured that each user only saw consistent data and is isolated from changes made by other users. This generally took place by a user being granted exclusive access to his required data. In this time, these data were not available to other users for working on them. Therefore, this solution had the following disadvantages:

- **No parallel working:** users could only work on the same data records one after the other.
- Slow exchange of partial results: results only became usable for other users when the data had been released again by the last person working on them.
- No joint working: a number of users could not work on the same objects together and exchange interim results.

[0008] The solution according to the invention permits immediate and permanent access to currently created partial solutions by the special way in which the directory is structured as a directory service. The directory service provides all developers with access to the current partial solutions and automation objects. This results in the following advantages:

- Parallel working: users can work on the same data records, required for different tasks (for example interconnection and parameterization), on a parallel basis.
- Immediate availability of partial results: results become usable for other users more quickly, not only when the data are released again by the last person working on them.
- Joint working: a number of users can work on the same objects together and exchange interim results.
- **Distributed working:** users can work on a (spatially) distributed basis; by means of the directory, they can, if need be, always re-synchronize the stages they have reached in working.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] The invention is described in more detail and explained below on the basis of the exemplary embodiments represented in the figures, in which:

Figure 1 shows a basic representation of how a directory is structured and its entries and

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Figure 2 shows a schematic representation of the use of the directory entries.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0010] Figure 1 shows a basic representation of how a directory is structured and its entries. The automation system has a directory V, in which object names O1..On of automation objects can be stored. Each object name O1..On is assigned a directory entry, which contains first information data O11 for an object reference, second information data O12 as a list of the modules contained in the automation object, third information data (O13) for the identification of interface data and fourth information data (O14) with names of subcomponents.

[0011] With the aid of the directory structure shown in figure 1, references to created (partial) solutions and/or automation objects are stored with descriptive data. As in a telephone book, the name of the object can be used to find its reference (i.e. its telephone number).

[0012] Along with a reference to the actual object, the entry includes a description of its technological functionality through the list of names of the modules contained, a listing of the names of any subcomponents and a description of its interface, which makes it possible for other objects/tools to use the objects referenced in this way.

[0013] Figure 2 illustrates a schematic representation of the use of the directory entries. After the creation of an object, it is entered at certain points in time in the directory as entry OE1 for a first automation object. It can then be viewed by other users/tools. They can then use the name to request a reference to the object and work on or copy the latter directly.

[0014] Entering or changing or removing an object entry in the directory does not have to take place instantaneously. Here, too, the analogy with a telephone book again applies: even if individual entries become invalid, as a whole it can still be used. This property is important in particular in the case of distributed working, since the communication expenditure is minimized in this way. If an object is still in the directory, but no longer available, this is indicated when it is attempted to request a copy.

[0015] To sum up, the invention consequently relates to an automation system which has at least one automation object 1, with a directory V for storing object names O1..On of the automation objects, an object name O1..On being assigned a directory entry Oe1..Oen which has first information data O11 as a reference to the automation object, second information data O12 as a description of the technological functionality and third information data O13 as a description of interfaces of the automation object. This results in immediate and permanent access to currently created (partial) solutions, so that parallel and/or distributed working on automation objects is possible.

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[0016] The invention being thus described, it will be obvious that the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and all such modifications as would be obvious to one skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the following claims.

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Description

Automation system with automation objects with a directory structure and method for the management of automation objects in a directory structure

The invention relates to an automation system which has at least one automation object.

An automation system of this type is used in particular in the area of automation technology. An automation system of this type generally comprises a multiplicity of individual automation objects, which are frequently highly dependent on the automation object of the engineering system respectively used. This has the consequence that automation objects of one manufacturer often require their own engineering system and cannot be used in other systems with automation objects of other manufacturers.

Robert Orfali et al: "The Essential Distributed Objects Survival Guide", 1996, John Wiley & Sons Inc., New XP002152444, discloses the standardized York, USA, middleware CORBA, which allows location-, platform- and communication between implementation-independent The CORBA Version 2.0 makes it possible applications. for messages be exchanged between Object various manufacturers and (ORB) of Brokers particular also over the Internet. An ORB makes it possible for a client to send a message transparently to a server object, the server object being able to run on the same machine or another machine. The ORB is responsible for finding the server object, calling up the function there, transferring the parameters and returning the result to the client.

04-25-2001 1999P03132 WO PCT/DE00/00737 PCT/DE00/00737

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The invention is based on the object of specifying an automation system which makes it possible for automation solutions to be created on a parallel and/or distributed basis.

This object is achieved by an automation system with the features specified in claim 1.

The invention is based on the realization that in previous solutions the data of the automation solution are generally stored in a central data store such as a database

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system. The data storage system then controls the access of various users to the data. In this case, it is ensured that each user only sees consistent data and is isolated from changes made by other users. This generally takes place by a user being granted exclusive access to his required data. In this time, these data are not available to other users for working on them. Therefore, this solution has the following disadvantages:

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 - Slow exchange of partial results: results only become usable for other users when the data have been released again by the last person working on them.
- No joint working: a number of users cannot work on the same objects together and exchange interim results.

The solution according to the invention permits immediate and permanent access to currently created partial solutions by the special way in which the directory is structured as a directory service. The directory service provides all developers with access to the current partial solutions and automation objects. This results in the following advantages:

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 - Joint working: a number of users can work on the same objects together and exchange interim results.
 - Distributed working: users can work on a (spatially) distributed basis; by means of the directory, they can, if need be, always re-synchronize the stages

- 2a -

they have reached in working.

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The invention is described in more detail and explained below on the basis of the exemplary embodiments represented in the figures, in which:

5 figure 1 shows a basic representation of how a directory is structured and its entries and figure 2 shows a schematic representation of the use

of the directory entries.

representation of basic shows a Figure 1 10 directory is structured and its entries. The automation system has a directory V, in which object names 01..0n of automation objects can be stored. Each object name O1..On is assigned a directory entry, which contains first information data Oll for an object reference, second information data 012 as a list of the modules contained in the automation object, third information data (013) for the identification of interface data and data (014)with names fourth information subcomponents. 20

With the aid of the directory structure shown in figure 1, references to created (partial) solutions and/or automation objects are stored with descriptive data. As in a telephone book, the name of the object can be used to find its reference (i.e. its telephone number).

Along with a reference to the actual object, the entry comprises a description of its technological functionality through the list of names of the modules contained, a listing of the names of any subcomponents and a description of its interface, which makes it possible for other objects/tools to use the objects referenced in this way.

Figure 2 a schematic representation of the use of the directory entries. After the creation of an object, it is entered at certain points in time in the directory as entry OE1 for a first automation object. It can then be viewed by other users/tools. They can then use the name to request a reference to the object and work on or copy the latter directly.

Entering or changing or removing an object entry in the directory does not have to take place instantaneously. Here, too, the analogy with a telephone book again applies: even if individual entries become invalid, as a whole it can still be used. This property is important in particular in the case of distributed working, since the communication expenditure is minimized in this way. If an object is still in the directory, but no longer available, this is indicated when it is attempted to request a copy.

To sum up, the invention consequently relates to an 20 automation system which has at least one automation object 1, with a directory V for storing object names O1..On of the automation objects, an object name O1..On being assigned a directory entry Oel..Oen which has first information data 011 as a reference to the 25 automation object, second information data 012 as a description of the technological functionality and third information data 013 as a description interfaces of the automation object. This results in immediate and permanent access to currently created 30 parallel so that (partial) solutions, distributed working on automation objects is possible.

04-25-2001 1999P03132 WO PCT/DE00/00737 PCT/DE00/00737

CLMSPAMD

- 5 -

Patent claims

- automation system which has at least automation object, with a directory (V) for storing object names (01..0n) of the automation objects, an object name (O1..On) being assigned a directory entry (OE1..Oen) which has first information data (O11) as a reference to the automation object, second information data (012) as a description of technological functionality and information data (013) as a description of interfaces of the automation object, it being possible, once entry into the directory (V) has taken place, for the automation object to be viewed by other users and/or tools and it being possible to use the object name (O1..On) of the automation object to request a reference to the automation object and the automation object to be worked on by a number of users in parallel.
- 2. The automation system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the directory entry (OE1) has fourth information data (O14) for listing the names of subcomponents of the automation object.
- 3. The automation system as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the automation system has means for the automatic entry of an automation object into the directory (V).
- 4. The automation system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the automation system has means which indicate that an automation object is no longer available and that a copy of the object is being created.

Abstract

Automation system with automation objects with a directory structure and method for the management of automation objects in a directory structure

The invention relates to an automation system which has at least one automation object (1), with a directory (V) for storing object names (O1..On) of the automation objects, an object name (O1..On) being assigned a directory entry (OE1..Oen) which has first information data (O11) as a reference to the automation object, second information data (O12) as a description of the technological functionality and third information data (O13) as a description of interfaces of the automation object. This results in immediate and permanent access to currently created (partial) solutions, so that parallel and/or distributed working on automation objects is possible.

Figure 1

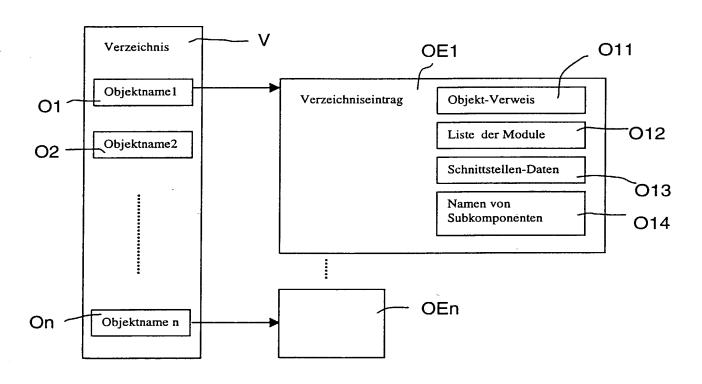


Fig. 1

2/2



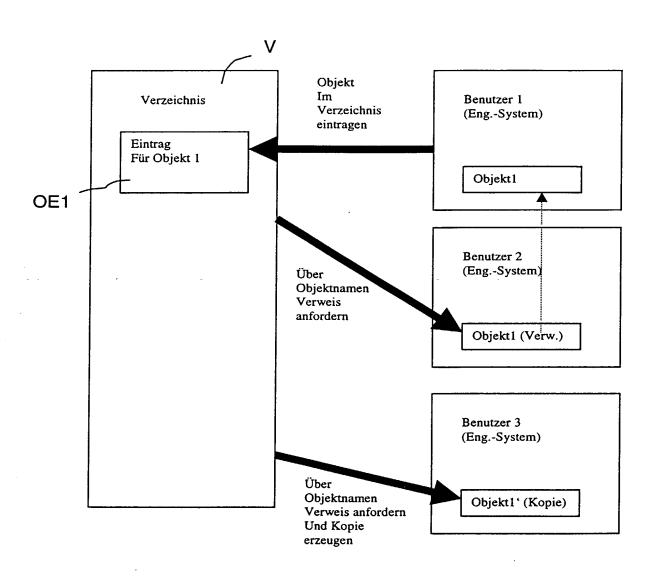


Fig. 2

IDNR: 2590 / V: 99-1.00 / B:Val

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application Erklärung Für Patentanmeldungen Mit Vollmacht German Language Declaration

#4

Als nachstehend benannter Erfinder erkläre ich hiermit an Eides Statt:

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

dass mein Wohnsitz, meine Postanschrift, und meine Staatsangehörigkeit den im Nachstehenden nach meinem Namen aufgeführten Angaben entsprechen, My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

dass ich, nach bestem Wissen der ursprüngliche, erste und alleinige Erfinder (falls nachstehend nur ein Name angegeben ist) oder ein ursprünglicher, erster und Miterfinder (falls nachstehend mehrere Namen aufgeführt sind) des Gegenstandes bin, für den dieser Antrag gestellt wird und für den ein Patent beantragt wird für die Erfindung mit dem Titel:

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

Automatisierungssystem mit
Automatisierungsobjekten mit
Verzeichnisstruktur und Verfahren zur
Verwaltung von
Automatisierungsobjekten in einer
Verzeichnisstruktur

Automation system with automation objects with a directory structure and method for the management of automation objects in a directory system

deren Beschreibung

the specification of which

(zutreffendes ankreuzen)

☐ hier beigefügt ist.

☐ am __09.03.2000 als

PCT internationale Anmeldung

PCT Anmeldungsnummer ______PCT/DE00/00737

eingereicht wurde und am _____

abgeändert wurde (falls tatsächlich abgeändert).

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is attached hereto.	
	<u>.2000</u> as
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PCT Application No	PCT/DE00/00737
and was amended on	
_	(if applicable)

Ich bestätige hiermit, dass ich den Inhalt der obigen Patentanmeldung einschliesslich der Ansprüche durchgesehen und verstanden habe, die eventuell durch einen Zusatzantrag wie oben erwähnt abgeändert wurde.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims as amended by any amendment referred to above.

Ich erkenne meine Pflicht zur Offenbarung irgendwelcher Informationen, die für die Prüfung der vorliegenden Anmeldung in Einklang mit Absatz 37, Bundesgesetzbuch, Paragraph 1.56(a) von Wichtigkeit sind, an.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

Ich beanspruche hiermit ausländische Prioritätsvorteile gemäss Abschnitt 35 der Zivilprozessordnung der Vereinigten Staaten, Paragraph 119 aller unten angegebenen Auslandsanmeldungen für ein Patent oder eine Erfindersurkunde, und habe auch alle Auslandsanmeldungen für ein Patent oder eine Erfindersurkunde nachstehend gekennzeichnet, die ein Anmeldedatum haben, das vor dem Anmeldedatum der Anmeldung liegt, für die Priorität beansprucht wird.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

German Language Declaration					
Prior foreign apppl Priorität beansprud				Priority	<u>Claimed</u>
19910537.5 (Number) (Nummer)	DE (Country) (Land)	09.03.1999 (Day Month Year Fil (Tag Monat Jahr eir		⊠ Yes Ja	No Nein
(Number) (Nummer)	- (Country) (Land)	(Day Month Year Fi (Tag Monat Jahr eir		☐ Yes Ja	No Nein
(Number) (Nummer)	- (Country) (Land)	(Day Month Year Fi (Tag Monat Jahr eir	led) ngereicht)	☐ Yes Ja	□ No Nein
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PCT/DE00/00737 (Application Serial No) (Anmeldeseriennumme	(Filing (.2000 Date D, M, Y) dedatum T, M, J)	(Status) (patentiert, anhängig, aufgegeben)	(£	ending Status) patented, pending, bandoned)
(Application Serial No) (Anmeldeseriennumme	, ;. ~.	Date D,M,Y) dedatum T, M; J)	(Status) (patentiert, anhängig, aufgeben)	(t	Status) patented, pending, bandoned)
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And I hereby appoint

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Falle von dritten und weiteren Miterfindern angeben).

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JCO7 Rec'd PCT/PTO 13 FEB 2002

BOX PCT **PATENT** 32860-000171/US

ND TRADEMARK OFFICE IN THE U.S. PATENT.

Applicants:

Norbert BECKER et al.

-Int'l Application No.: PCT/DE00/00737

Application No.:

09/936,047

Filed:

September 7, 2001

For:

AUTOMATION SYSTEM WITH AUTOMATION OBJECTS WITH A DIRECTORY STRUCTURE AND METHOD FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF AUTOMATION OBJECTS IN A DIRECTORY **STRUCTURE**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND REVOCATION AND SUBSTITUTION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

January 2, 2002

Sir:

Under 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b), the undersigned hereby states that the below-named Assignee is an assignee in the above-identified Application:

Assignee:

SIEMENS AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

The documentary evidence of a chain of title from the original owner to the Assignee is provided in the Assignment Document(s):

\boxtimes	filed herewith	h,	,
	previously fil	led,	
	Reel No	Frame No	

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements, and the like so made, are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001, Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Application No. 09/936,047 Docket No. 32860-000171/US

POWER OF ATTORNEY

The Declaration submitted along with this application includes a Power of Attorney listing the attorneys of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP. Please hereby revoke the aforementioned attorneys and substitute the attorneys of Customer No. 30596, including the following attorneys of Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C., to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

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The undersigned is empowered with full Power of Attorney on behalf of the assignee.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C

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